



Classic

CLASSIC
STAR WARS
12

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C L A S S I C

STAR WARS



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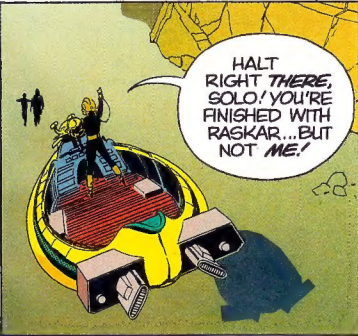
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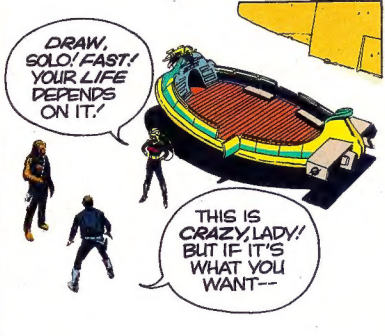
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WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

As Luke and the ersatz Ben Kenobi are attacked by an Imperial patrol, the actor starts to have second thoughts about his loyalties to Darth Vader. He leads Luke to a waiting Vader at the Iron Tower, knowing it's a trap. The actor eventually recants and heroically blows up the Tower, losing his life in the bargain, though Vader escapes in time. Meanwhile, Han and Chewie set out to search for the lost power gems of Iridium, which could be used to disrupt the magnetic shields of Vader's private cruiser. Their first stop is the cantina on Junkfort Station, where they earn a hard-won bit of information and set off for one of the rimworlds. Once there, they're ushered into an official arena combat competition by Raskar and his aide, Mystra — the winner earning one of the supposedly lost power gems. Han agrees to participate only on the condition that Chewie fight in his place. But Mystra still has a thing or two to prove.

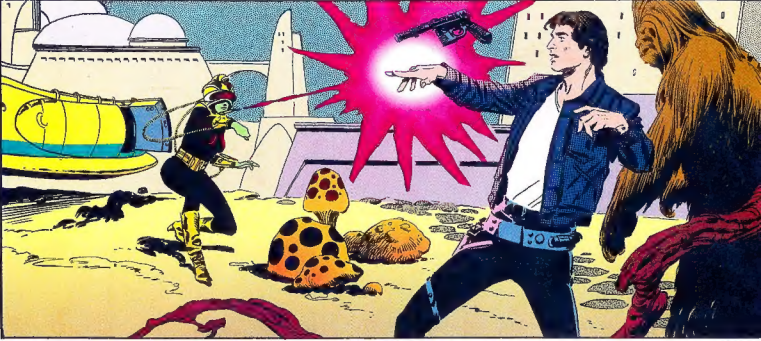


HALT
RIGHT *THERE*.
SOLO! YOU'RE
FINISHED WITH
RASKAR...BUT
NOT *ME!*



*DRAW,
SOLO! FAST!
YOUR LIFE
DEPENDS
ON IT!*

THIS IS
CRAZY, LADY!!
BUT IF IT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT--



OW! MYSTRA!
W-WHAT?

BE GRATEFUL MY
WEAPON WAS SET
AT **STING LEVEL**,
CORELLIAN! I WANTED
TO **PROVE**
SOMETHING.

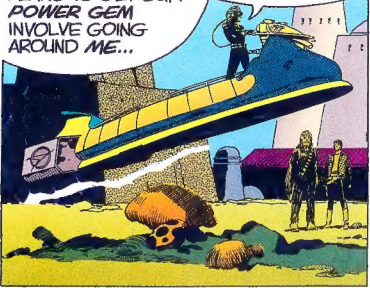


YOU'RE NO **MATCH**
FOR ME! NO ONE
IS! WITH MY
CYBER-VISION,
I NEVER MISS...

...AND WITH THIS
WRIST-BLASTER,
I'M NEVER
OUTDRAWN!

YOU'RE A **SCHEMER**,
HAN SOLO! BUT IF YOUR
PLANS TO GET OUR
POWER GEM
INVOLVE GOING
AROUND ME...

...FORGET THEM...
AND LIVE
LONGER!



MYSTRA MAKES A GOOD
CASE FOR PLAYING BY
THE **RULES** TO WIN THE
POWER GEM, CHEWIE!

GNRRAAGH!

EASY FOR ME TO SAY SINCE I WON'T BE THE ONE IN RASKAR'S ARENA...

PAL, IF THINGS GO ACCORDING TO PLAN...

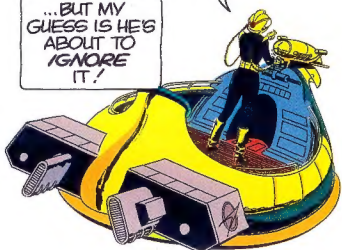


...I PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER SET FOOT IN THERE, EITHER! C'MON... LET'S ARRANGE YOUR FIRST FIGHT!



RASKAR, THIS IS MYSTRA. I DELIVERED A LITTLE WARNING TO HAN SOLO TO KEEP HIM IN LINE...

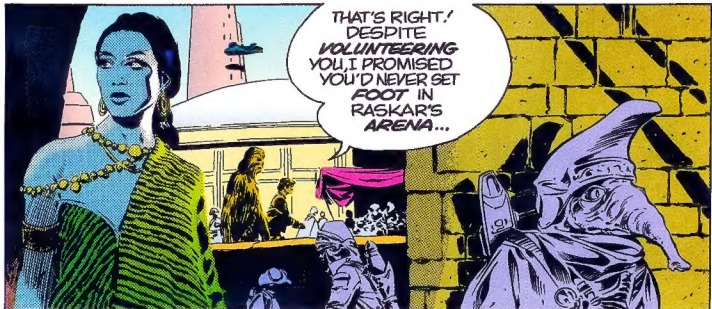
...BUT MY GUESS IS HE'S ABOUT TO IGNORE IT!



ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS I GOT... THIS IS WHERE THE LEADING CONTENDER FOR THE POWER GEM TRAINS!

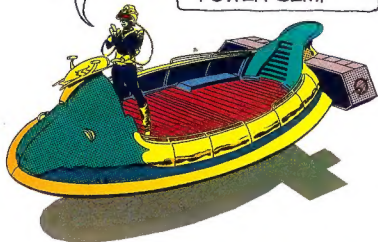


THAT'S RIGHT! DESPITE VOLUNTEERING YOU, I PROMISED YOU'D NEVER SET FOOT IN RASKAR'S ARENA...



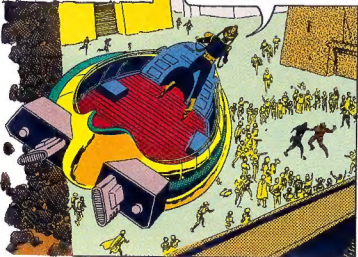


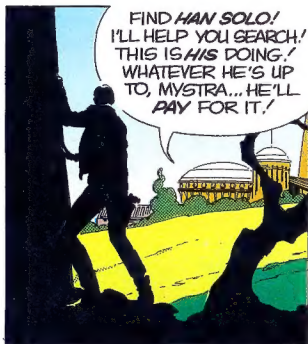
RASKAR! THAT SHIFTY CORELLIAN AND HIS WOOKIEE FRIEND HAVE STARTED A BRAWL... WITH THE LEADING CONTENDER FOR THE POWER GEM!



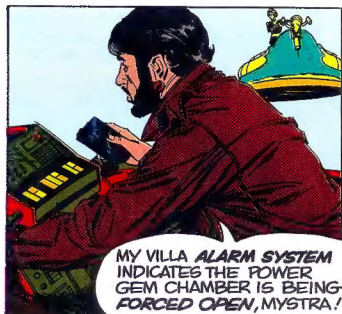
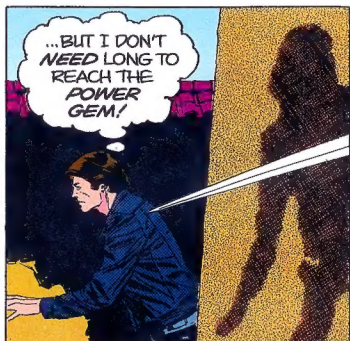
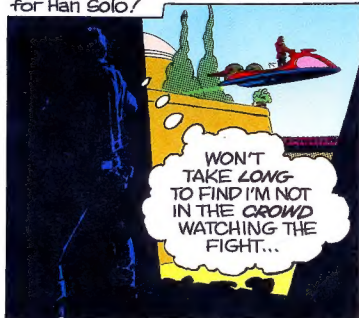
Myetra swiftly moves to stop Chewbacca's BATTLE, but...

IT'S TOO LATE, RASKAR! A CROWD HAS FORMED! EVERYONE IS TURNING OUT FOR THIS...





...Raskar rushes to join Mystra searching
for Han Solo!



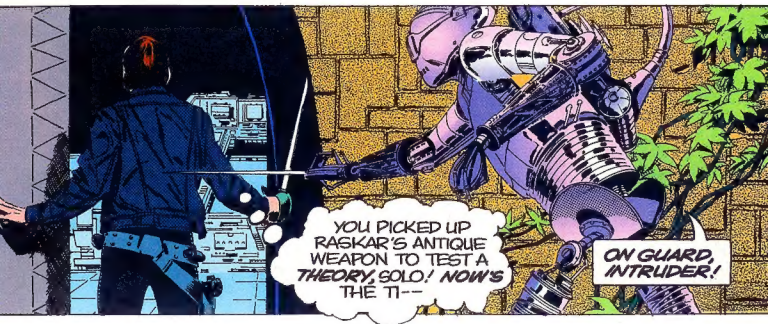
Stealthily, Han moves through Raskar's villa...



AH! OUR SPACE PIRATE'S ANTIQUE *PLAYTHING...* GIVES ME AN IDEA FOR THE *WORK AT HAND.*



BUT FIRST...LET'S SEE IF I'VE RETAINED ALL MY OLD LOCK SHORT-CIRCUITING SKILLS!

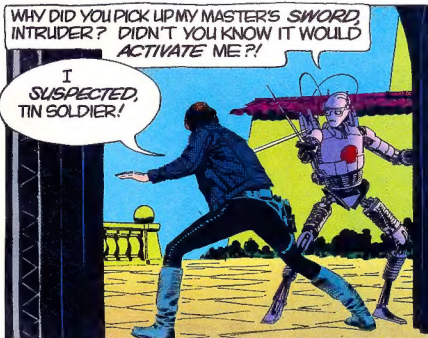


YOU PICKED UP RASKAR'S ANTIQUE WEAPON TO TEST A *THEORY, SOLO!* NOW'S THE TI--

ON GUARD, INTRUDER!

WHY DID YOU PICK UP MY MASTER'S *SWORD*, INTRUDER? DIDN'T YOU KNOW IT WOULD *ACTIVATE ME?*!

I *SUSPECTED*, TIN SOLDIER!



YOU SHOULD ALSO HAVE SUSPECTED I'M PROGRAMMED TO *KILL* THOSE NOT COMPETENT ENOUGH TO *OUTFIGHT* ME.!



Disarmed, Han backs into the power gem chamber! But...

DIE, INTRUDER!

And as Raskar and Mystra approach the villa...

YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN./ IF WE DON'T RUSH, SOLO MIGHT STILL--

HAN SOLO IS DEAD!

DEAD ?!

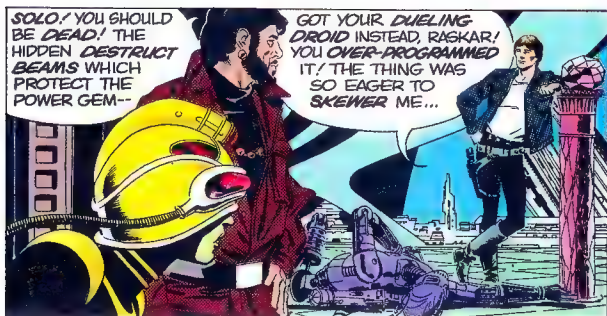
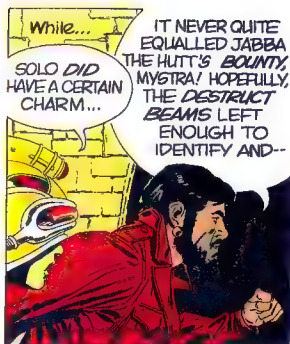
MY FLOATER'S ALARM DISPLAY JUST REVEALED IT... HE'S TRIGGERED HIDDEN *DESTRUCT BEAMS* WHICH PROTECT THE POWER GEM!

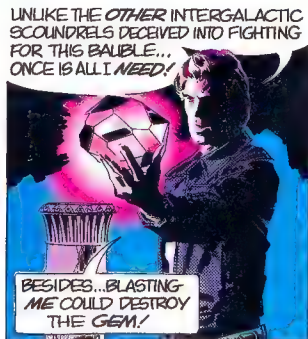
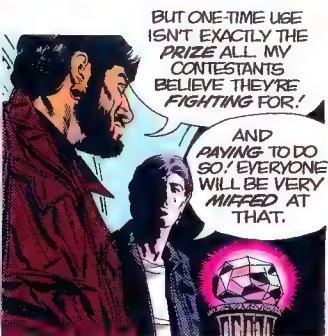
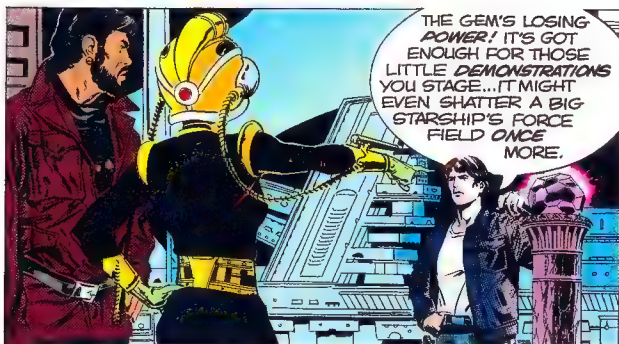
PITY! HE POSSESSED QUALITIES I ADMIRE, MYSTRA! GREED... GUILT...

BUT THIS SIMPLIFIES YOUR COLLECTING THE BOUNTY ON HIM!

Meantime,unaware of the events at Raskar's villa...

...CHEWBACCA fights on!

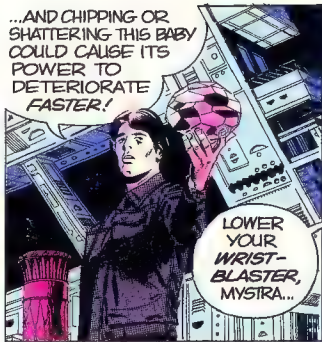






THAT JEWEL ISN'T BIG ENOUGH TO *HIDE* BEHIND, SOLO... NOT WITH THE *PRECISION* FIRING MY CYBER-VISION ALLOWS ME.!

I CAN STILL *DROP* IT, LADY...

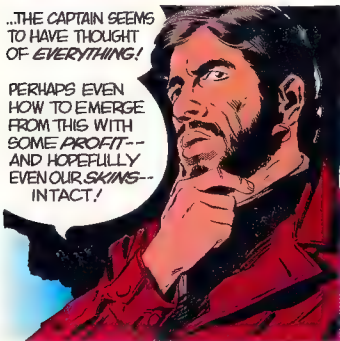


...AND CHIPPING OR SHATTERING THIS BABY COULD CAUSE ITS POWER TO DETERIORATE FASTER!

LOWER YOUR *WRIST-BLASTER*, MYSTRA...

...THE CAPTAIN SEEMS TO HAVE THOUGHT OF *EVERYTHING*!

PERHAPS EVEN HOW TO EMERGE FROM THIS WITH SOME *PROFIT*-- AND HOPEFULLY EVEN OUR *SKINS*-- INTACT.!



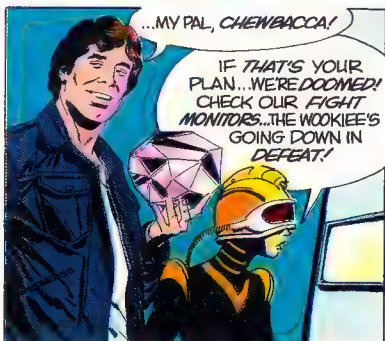
RASKAR, YOU'VE MILKED THE GLADIATORIAL CONTEST FOR THE POWER GEM ALL YOU CAN... TIME TO DECLARE A *WINNER*!

YOU'RE *MAD*, SOLO.!



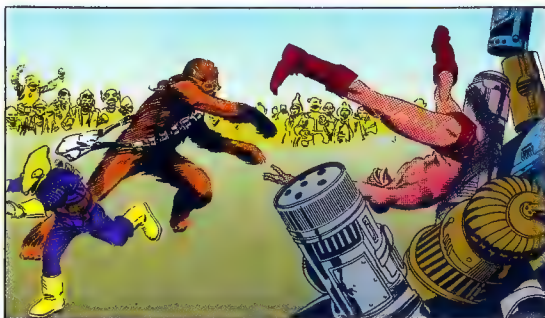
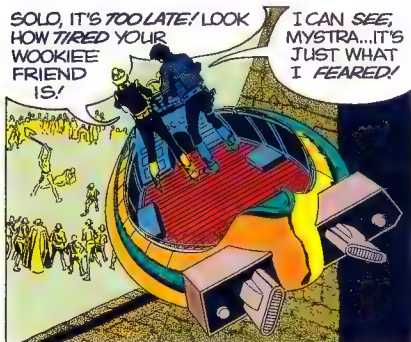
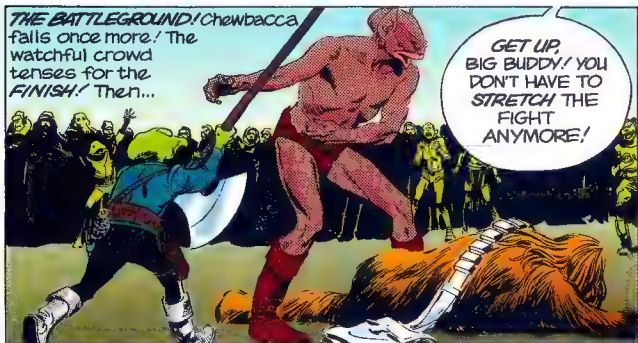
...EVERYONE WHO PAID TO FIGHT WILL TEAR US LIMB FROM LIMB WHEN THE WINNER DISCOVERS THE GEM IS *LOSING* ITS POWER.!

ONE WINNER WON'T *REVEAL* THAT. , ,

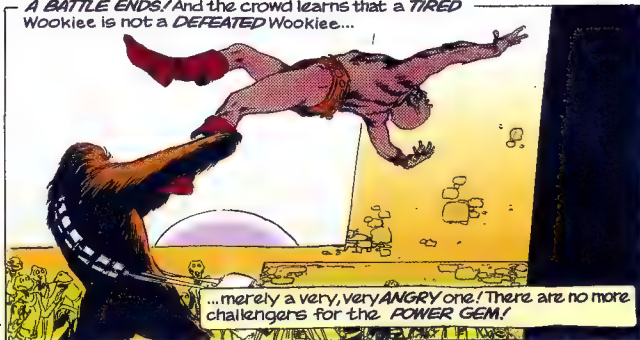


...MY PAL, *CHEWBACCA*!

IF *THAT'S* YOUR PLAN...WE'RE *DOOMED*! CHECK OUR *FIGHT* MONITORS...THE WOOKIEE'S GOING DOWN IN *DEFEAT*!



A BATTLE ENDS! And the crowd learns that a **TIERED** Wookiee is not a **DEFEATED** Wookiee...

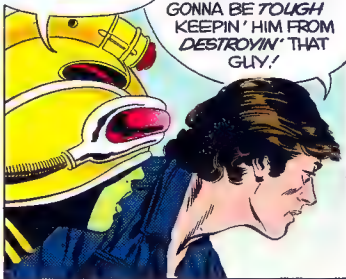


...merely a very, very **ANGRY** one! There are no more challengers for the **POWER GEM**!

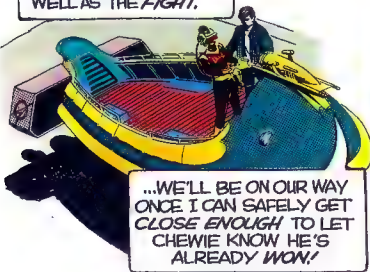


SOLO! THAT'S WHAT YOU FEARED? I THOUGHT--

CHEWBACCA'S TIERED MYSTRA... THAT MAKES A WOOKIEE VICIOUS! GONNA BE TOUGH KEEPIN' HIM FROM DESTROYIN' THAT GUY!



SET THE **FLOATER DOWN MYSTRA...**! THIS WRAPS UP THE PROBLEM WITH THE **POWER GEM** AS WELL AS THE **FIGHT**.

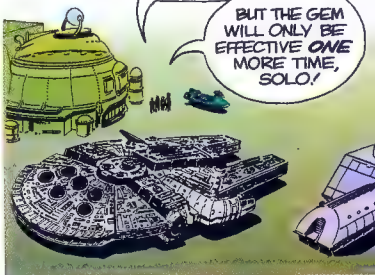


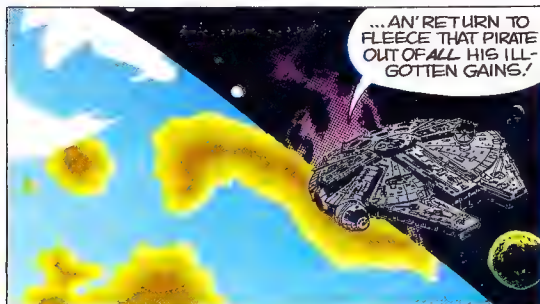
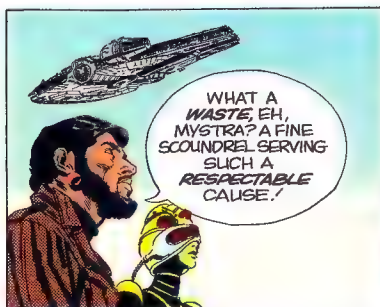
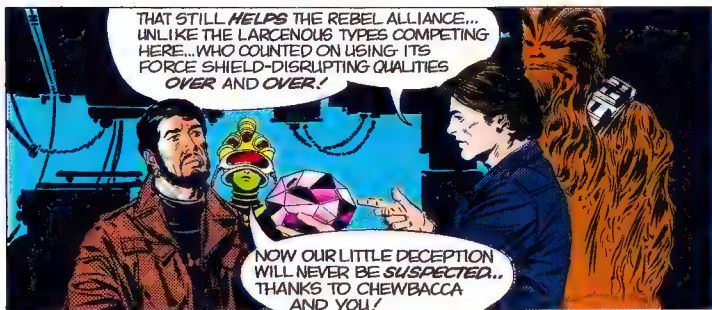
...WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY ONCE I CAN SAFELY GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO LET CHEWIE KNOW HE'S ALREADY **WON!**

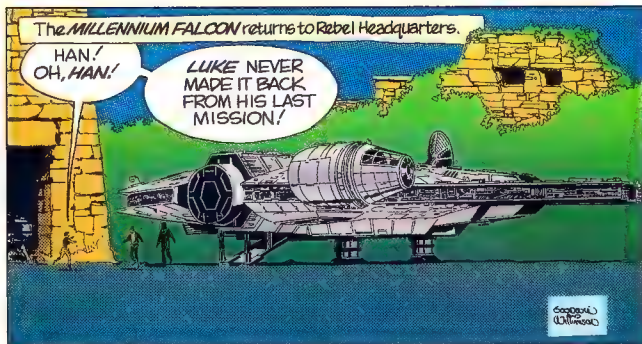
As the victors prepare to depart with their prize...

THERE RASKAR! ISN'T THIS BETTER THAN **SHOOTING ME?**

BUT THE GEM WILL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE **ONE** MORE TIME, **SOLO!**







LEIA, WHEN CHEWIE AN' I LEFT TO SEARCH FOR THE *POWER GEM*... YOU SAID LUKE WAS ON HIS WAY BACK!

HE WAS...

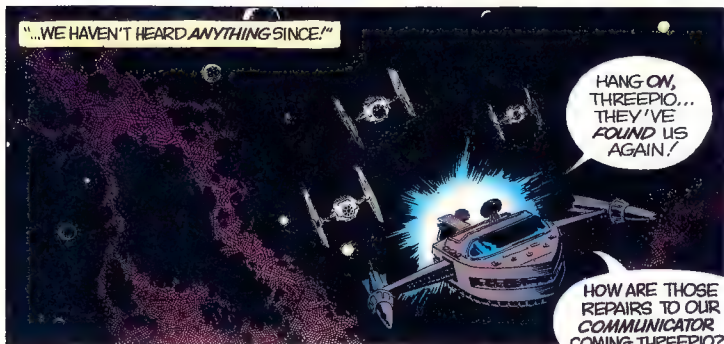
...BUT THE IMPERIALS HAVE *TIGHTENED* THEIR BLOCKADE ON OUR SECTOR OF SPACE! LUKE'S LAST REPORT INDICATED HE WAS HAVING *TROUBLE*...

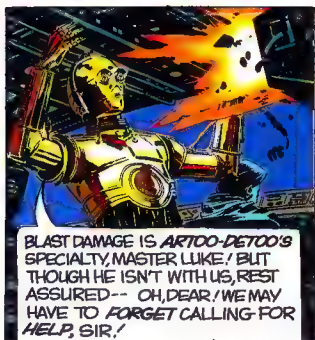


"...WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING SINCE!"

HANG ON, THREEPIO... THEY'VE FOUND US AGAIN!

HOW ARE THOSE REPAIRS TO OUR COMMUNICATOR COMING, THREEPIO?

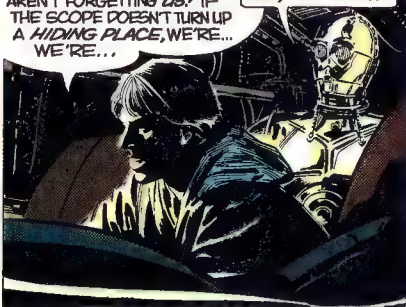




BLAST DAMAGE IS ARTOO-DETOO'S SPECIALTY, MASTER LUKE! BUT THOUGH HE ISN'T WITH US, REST ASSURED-- OH, DEAR! WE MAY HAVE TO FORGET CALLING FOR HELP, SIR!

WELL, THOSE TIE FIGHTERS AREN'T FORGETTING US! IF THE SCOPE DOESN'T TURN UP A HIDING PLACE, WE'RE... WE'RE...

SIR, WHAT IS IT?!

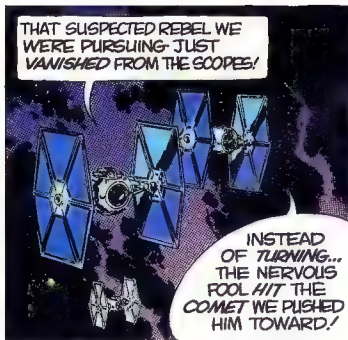


A COMET! THOSE INSIDIOUS IMPERIALS HAVE BEEN DRIVING US INTO ITS PATH! MASTER LUKE... WE'LL BE DESTROYED!

MAYBE NOT, THREEPIO!



SIR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! TURN AWAY! YOU'RE GUIDING US STRAIGHT TOWARD IT!



THAT SUSPECTED REBEL WE WERE PURSUING JUST VANISHED FROM THE SCOPES!

INSTEAD OF TURNING... THE NERVOUS FOOL HIT THE COMET WE PUSHED HIM TOWARD!



But...

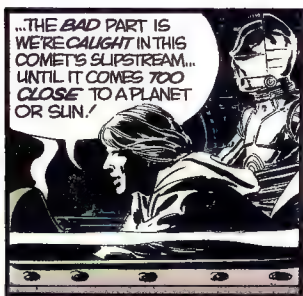
MASTER LIKE! WE'RE BEING CARRIED AWAY FROM OUR IMPERIAL PURSUERS *FASTER* THAN ANY *STARSHIP* COULD!

THAT'S THE *GOOD* PART, THREEPIO.



I HAD TO CUT IT *CLOSE*...
SO WE'D BE PULLED INTO THIS FAST-FLYIN' MASS'S *SLIPSTREAM*!

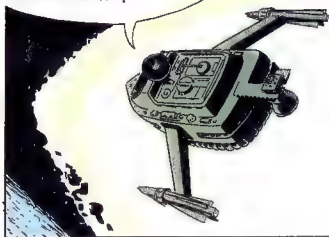
ONLY PROBLEM IS... *NOW WE'RE STUCK GOIN' WHEREVER IT DOES!*



...THE *BAD* PART IS WE'RE *CAUGHT* IN THIS COMET'S *SLIPSTREAM*... UNTIL IT COMES *TOO CLOSE* TO A PLANET OR SUN!

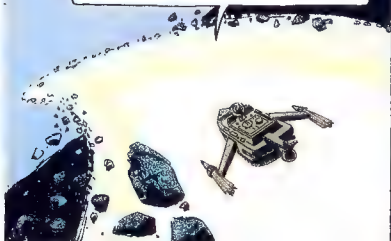
WE'RE GONNA BE *CAUGHT* BETWEEN THE COMET'S *PULL* AND THAT WORLD'S *GRAVITATIONAL FORCE*! IT COULD GO *EITHER* WAY.

OR *BOTH*!



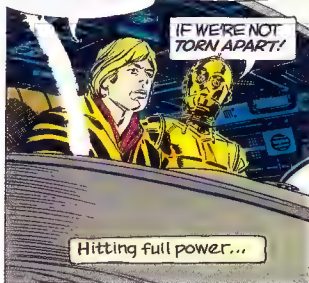
As the comet passes near the looming planet...

THE GRAVITATION PULL IS CAUSING
THE COMET TO FRAGMENT, SIR!



STRAP IN, THREEPIO! THIS IS OUR
CHANCE TO BREAK FREE OF THE COMET'S
SLIPSTREAM!

IF WE'RE NOT
TORN APART!



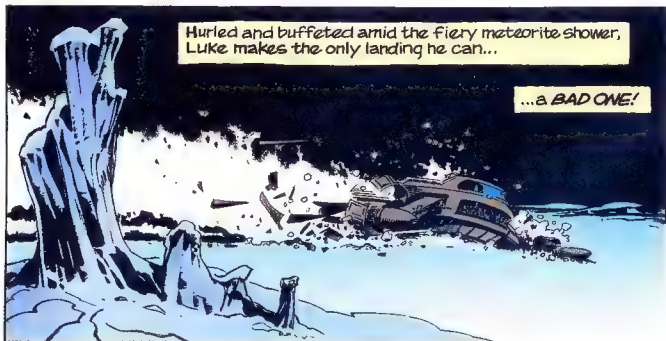
Hitting full power...

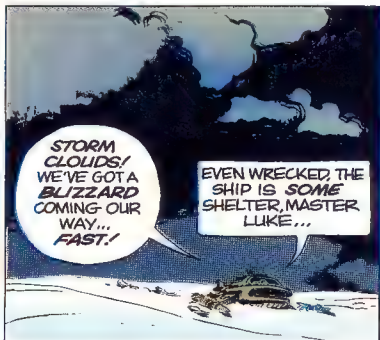
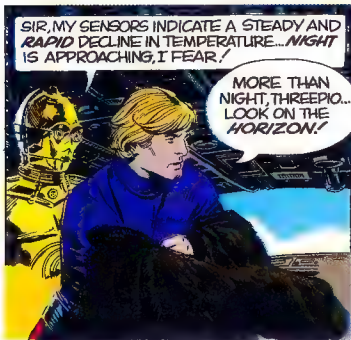
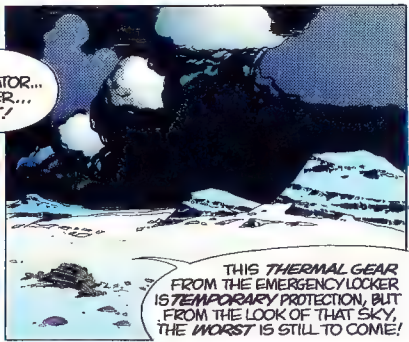
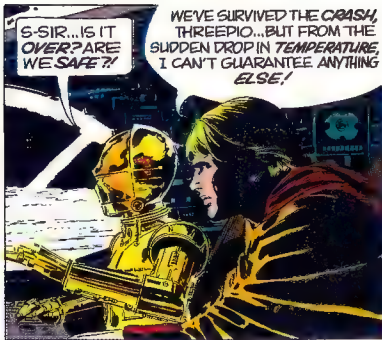
...Luke maneuvers his ship to be
pulled from the comet's tail...into
what is now a **METEORITE SHOWER**
hurtling below!



Hurled and buffeted amid the fiery meteorite shower,
Luke makes the only landing he can...

...a **BAD ONE!**





...SURELY, WITH YOUR *THERMAL GEAR*,
YOU CAN WEATHER *WHATEVER* THIS
DREADFUL ICEWORLD HURLS AT US!



WE'LL FIND OUT
SOON, THREEPIO!

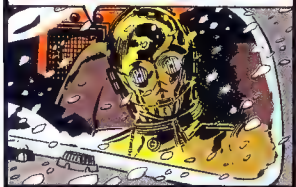
ONE BRIGHT NOTE, SIR...IT ISN'T
LIKELY THE *EMPIRE* WILL
COME LOOKING
FOR US *HERE*!



Screaming winds descend on Luke and Threepio's
wrecked spacecraft, carrying blinding snow
and ice... and ever-dropping temperatures!



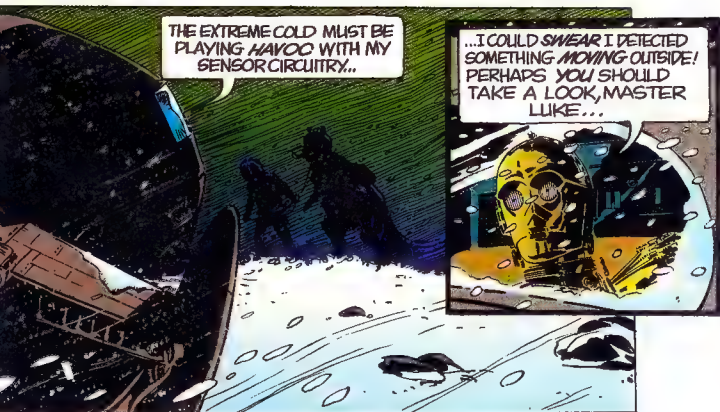
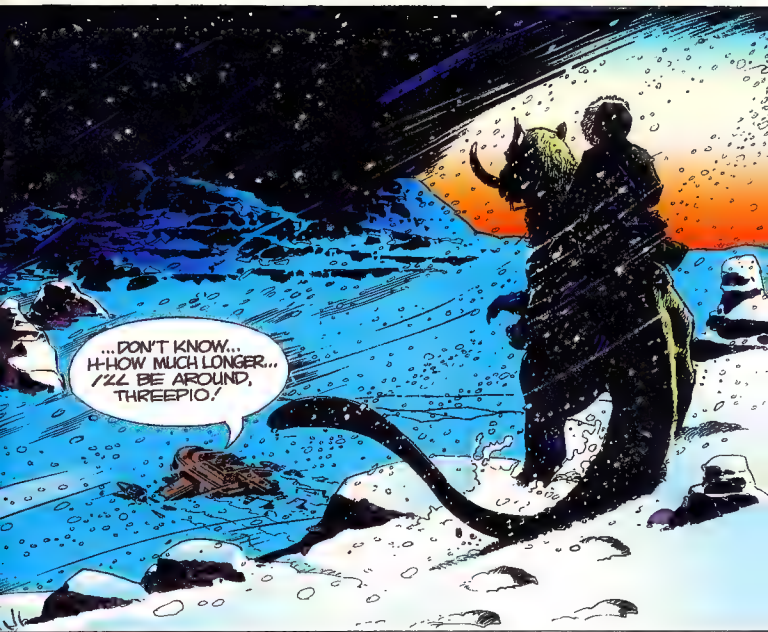
WE COULD BE *MUCH* WORSE OFF,
SIR... SUPPOSE THE COMET HAD
ACTUALLY *STRUCK* THIS MISERABLE
SNOWBALL OF A WORLD...



...INSTEAD OF
NARROWLY
MISSING IT?

T-THIS IS OUR LAST...
EMERGENCY HEAT CAPSULE!
AFTER I-IT GOES...





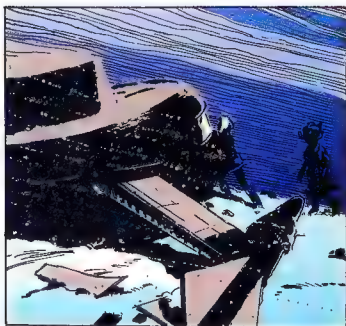


MASTER LUKE!

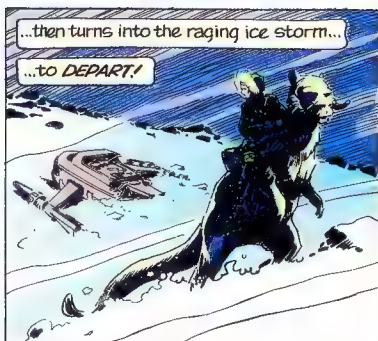


THE LAST HEAT CAPSULE
IS EXHAUSTED! MASTER
LUKE HAS SUCCEMIBED
TO THIS AWFUL COLD!

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING
I CAN DO...BUT WHAT?!

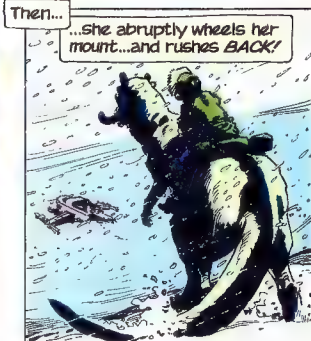


The watcher stares intently at the
unconscious Luke Skywalker...



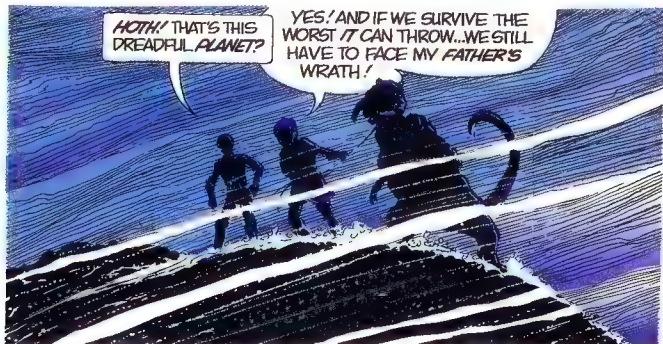
...then turns into the raging ice storm...

...to DEPART!



Then...

...she abruptly wheels her
mount...and rushes BACK!



The girl leads Threepio and the unconscious Luke through the storm's fury, until...

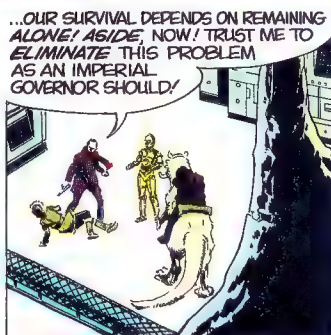
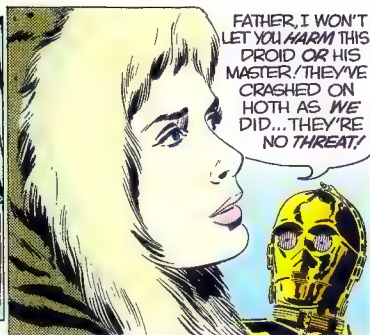
UNLESS MY PHOTO-RECEPTORS DECEIVE ME, THERE'S A LIGHT AHEAD!

MY HOME, SEE-THREEPIO, UNFORTUNATELY...

...YOU AND YOUR HANDSOME YOUNG MASTER MUST NOW FACE THE WRATH OF MY FATHER!

FRIJA! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? I HAVEN'T I ALWAYS SAID OUR SAFETY AND HAPPINESS HERE ON HOTH DEPEND ON NO ONE DISCOVERING OUR PRESENCE?

SCRAP THE DROID FOR PARTS... RETURN THE HUMAN TO THE ELEMENTS!



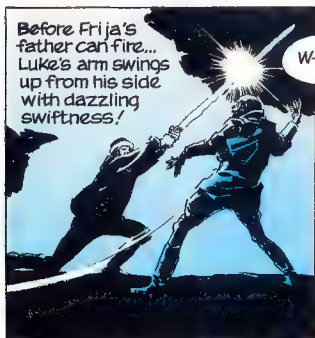
Revived but weakened,
Luke finds
Frija's
father a
surprisingly
strong and
agile opponent....!



YOUR EFFORTS GAINED
YOU *ONE* THING, MY
OVER-EAGER YOUNG
TROUBLEMAKER...
DEATH BY *BLASTER*
INSTEAD OF BEING
LEFT TO SLOWLY
FREEZE IN
HOTH'S NIGHT
STORMS!

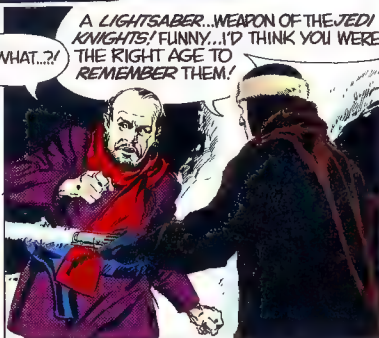


Before Frija's
father can fire...
Luke's arm swings
up from his side
with dazzling
swiftness!



W-WHAT...?!

A *LIGHTSABER*...WEAPON OF THE *JEDI*
KNIGHTS! FUNNY...I'D THINK YOU WERE
THE RIGHT AGE TO
REMEMBER THEM!



THREPIO, FIND THEIR
COMMUNICATOR AND
SIGNAL FOR HELP!



YOU'LL FIND
THAT *IMPOSSIBLE*,
MY YOUNG HERO...
YOU'RE *STRANDED*
ON HOTH!

A FEW QUICK
BLEEPS ON OUR
EMERGENCY SIGNAL
FREQUENCY WILL BRING
HELP WITHOUT
ALERTING THE
EMPIRE!



YOUNG
FOOL...THERE'S
NO DANGER
OF ALERTING
ANYONE!

The adventure continues next
month in *CLASSIC STAR WARS* #13!

STELLAR



10956 S.E. MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Welcome to another month of "Stellar Scribes" — the forum that allows you to relate your secret, most intimate childhood recollections of *Star Wars* to thousands upon thousands of strangers with no fear of embarrassment or recrimination. We'll begin this month's column with a curious Canadian correspondent with a whole slew of questions:

Paul Ens
2834 Eastview
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7J 3H7 Canada

I simply couldn't continue to pass on the opportunity to thank you and Dark Horse Comics for your significant contribution toward keeping the *Star Wars* saga alive in people's imagination ten years since the release of *Return of the Jedi*.

I saw *Star Wars* for the first time at the age of six in 1977 and it has had a huge impact on me ever since. It is of great comfort to me (and my parents, who never understood my fascination) to read the same story told over and over in your letter column. It always seemed like my love of this series was mine alone (my 9th and 12th birthdays — May 24, 1980 and 1983, respectively — were two of the happiest days of my life). It feels good to know I have kindred spirits out there.

After finishing Timothy Zahn's *The Last Command*, I just had to re-read *Dark Empire*. It's even more impressive now. I commend Dark Horse (and Bantam and Lucasfilm) on the attention paid to the continuity of the two

stories, especially considering release times. I hope that your upcoming sequel will be able to tie in even more closely. (Can you give us any new information on *Dark Empire II*? Do you know if Bantam has plans to release any more new *Star Wars* books?)

I am extremely impressed with your work on *Classic Star Wars*. Every issue flows better than the last, to the point where it is easy to forget that you're reprinting newspaper comics. The story is outstanding and the characters'

.....
"Every issue flows better than the last... it is easy to forget that you're reprinting newspaper comics."
.....

dialog seems written by Lucas himself. The artwork (including the coloring) is equally impressive. My local newspaper never carried these strips, so I await each issue with anticipation. I'd like to cast an early vote for a hardcover collection of this Goodwin/Williamson story. (Does this *New Hope-to-Empire* transition story have a name?) This collection should include a preface outlining the history of the strip, as well as the Williamson scrapbook (and all of the new cover art), and a "how a newspaper strip is made into a comic" section.

As long as I'm casting votes . . . *Classic Star Wars* should continue monthly as long as there are strips left to be reprinted. This would include the original Russ Manning strips and Alfredo

Alcala's Han Solo story.

There needs to be a *Tales of the Jedi* #0 reprinting the stories from *Dark Horse Comics* #7-9 and the *Insider* #15-20 in full color. Both Janine Johnston and Chris Gossett are doing an outstanding job, by the way. It's hard to believe that they're newcomers.

I assume that *Dark Empire II* takes place in year seven after *Return of the Jedi*. I would be interested in stories from year one to four. Anyone else? A story of the events between *Empire* and *Jedi* might be nice as well, although the possibilities aren't as great as with the current *Classic Star Wars* time period.

Solo stories (like your upcoming *Droids* series) are also a great idea. Good candidates would include Han, Lando, Boba Fett, and Wedge. Bad candidates include Ewoks and Jawas.

While graphic adaptations of existing *Star Wars* stories (like the old Han Solo novels or Zahn's trilogy) hold a certain appeal, I would prefer to see what brand-new adventures "The World's Greatest Comics" company can add to the *Star Wars* myths.

Thanks once again for bringing more of the *Star Wars* universe to mine. I look forward to your future projects.

Let's see if I can answer at least most of your questions, Paul — *Dark Empire II* will be coming out in 1994; it will feature the same fantastic creative team of Tom Veitch, Cam Kennedy, and Dave Dorman, so you know you can expect one of the hottest, best-written, and best-looking comics on the market.

There will be a second Bantam trilogy following Timothy Zahn's *Star Wars* books, authored by Kevin J. Anderson. This trilogy will take place between the events being chronicled by Tom Veitch in his *Tales of the Jedi*, and the movies. Kevin, incidentally, has been in close contact with Tom in order to ensure that his novels, *Tales of the Jedi*, and *Dark Empire II* follow the same specific post-movie continuity set up in previous Dark Horse and Bantam projects. Also in 1994, look for a new Dark Horse comic-book series written by both Tom and Kevin, entitled *Dark Lords of the Sith*.

Dark Horse will eventually be collecting the *Classic Star Wars* series into more permanent collectible volumes. And yes, the Goodwin/Williamson stories presented in *Classic Star Wars* were indeed individually titled when they were originally presented in newspapers back in the '80s; we chose not to include the story names when we reprinted the stories, primarily so readers would get more of an impression of a smoothly flowing story from issue to issue. For you completists out there, however, following is a list of the original story titles, along with the *Classic Star Wars* issues-to-date the stories have been featured in:

- "The Bounty Hunter of Ord Mantell" — CSW #1-2
- "Darth Vader Strikes" — CSW #3-4
- "The Serpent Masters" — CSW #4-6
- "Deadly Reunion" — CSW #6-7
- "Traitor's Gambit" — CSW #7-8
- "The Night Beast" — CSW #8-9
- "The Return of Ben Kenobi" — CSW #10-11
- "The Power Gem" — CSW #11-12
- "Iceworld" — CSW #13-15

For some interesting accounts and reminiscences of the

genesis of the Goodwin/Williamson *Star Wars* newspaper strip, see the three-volume Russ Cochran *Star Wars* collection that reprint the strips in their entirety, mentioned here in previous columns. As to a "how a newspaper strip is made into a comic" feature, look for an upcoming feature on exactly that in the *Insider* (hey, I've been looking for an excuse to put something like that together — thanks for the impetus, Paul!).

The "Tales of the Jedi" stories that ran in *Dark Horse Comics* and the *Insider* will actually comprise parts of issues #1 and 3 of our upcoming five-issue *Tales of the Jedi* series — the Chris Gossett-drawn feature in the *Insider*, colored for the first time, will appear as the first 12 pages of issue #1; the *Dark Horse Comics* three-part story drawn by Janine Johnston will appear as issue #3 (whew! it's getting hard to keep track of all the *Star Wars* material being published by Dark Horse these days!). As for the Russ Manning *Star Wars* strips, see the note at the end of this column.



Here's a short and very concise missive from a young fan (and budding artist — thanks for the drawing, Casey):

Casey Andrews
309 Janette
Goodlettsville, TN 37070

I love the *Classic Star Wars* comics. Is there a fan club?

Well, there's The Lucasfilm Fan Club, which you can write to at the following address:

The Lucasfilm Fan Club
PO Box 111000
Aurora, CO 80042

They put out a great, glossy quarterly publication that I've come to rely on for much of my news regarding what's up in the Lucasfilm universe. I'm not sure how much membership dues are, but if you drop them a line, I'm sure they'd be happy to send you information on how to join.



Next ... ?

Dan Wallace
216 N. Hagadorn
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48823

Thanks for *Classic Star Wars*. The Williamson art is fantastic. You've mentioned his previous work on *Flash Gordon*, and this influence is seen in the occasional spaceship design or in Luke and Han's retro-looking space suits and blasters in issues #6 and 7. It's nice to see touches of the kind of SF that inspired *Star Wars* in the first place.

It would be fun to see the Manning strips, but I remember them being more like *Dondi* than *Flash Gordon*. One series I clipped and saved as a kid featured an Imperial villain named Blackhole who had a legion of his own Blackhole stormtroopers. Do we really want to dredge this stuff back up?

I was seven when I first saw *Star Wars*, and was instantly infatuated along with the rest of my town. Unfortunately, my parents did not truly understand this infatuation and rewarded me every Christmas with the lamest collection of action figures in the Quad Cities. Trust me, you don't want to know what it's like growing up in a small Iowa town with no-potential figures like R5-D4 and

the Power Droid.

Quite simply, no movie can ever top *Star Wars* for me because I will never again be seven. I think *Star Wars'* enduring appeal lies in its basic appeal to a childhood sense of fun. I am eagerly looking forward to the moment when I and a theater full of fellow twentysomethings expire from ecstatic heart attacks when the new movie's opening credits crawl across the screen in 1997.



Scott Cheshire
239 Peg
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

I live in a small, remote town in the California desert (well, it was small and remote when *Star Wars* came out). As a result, I was never aware of the *Star Wars* newspaper strip when it was originally published. Unfortunately, I found out about it a few years later and truly believed I would never see it. One loss to a true *Star Wars* fan . . . that is, until you guys came along.

It would be insufficient to say that *Classic Star Wars* is great. For me, this series recreates that entire bigger-than-life *Star Wars* feeling that entirely captured my heart and imagination as a youngster. That feeling was more than great, it was all-encompassing . . . almost overwhelming. Many thanks to you folks who took the time to make *Star Wars* fans feel like Jedi Knights once more.

P.S.: Al and Archie make such a great creative team — are there any plans to produce new material by them?

No plans currently, Scott, but I've learned never to say

never . . . there's nothing I'd like to see more than a brand-new Goodwin/Williamson project.



As for that "good news" I promised y'all last time — due in very large part to the absolutely *overwhelming* demand from our readers (it *does* pay to write letters, folks . . .), Dark Horse will be publishing Russ Manning's *Star Wars* newspaper strips in a new comic-book series, reformatted and colored, and reprinted for the first time anywhere.

The original run of strips that Russ worked on ran in newspapers from March 1979 through October 1980 (preceding the Goodwin/Williamson run). Through the largesse of Russ Manning's son, Roger, and Barry Short, of 21st Century Comics in Orange, CA, Dark Horse will be able to reproduce almost the entire series from the original Russ Manning artwork. As it turns out, Barry was aware of the possibility of Dark Horse reprinting the Manning strips through reading the "Stellar Scribes" letter columns in earlier issues of this series, and contacted me to let me know that he and Roger Manning had the bulk of the original artwork in their possession and would be happy to let us borrow it for reproduction purposes. Fortunately, another *Classic Star Wars* fan, Disney Comics editor David Seidman, contacted Dark Horse about the same time to let us know that he had a complete collection of proof

sheets from the Manning run on the newspaper strip. We'll be able to use reproductions of David's proofs to fill in the gaps in the collection of original art. Add to that Dark Horse's usual high-quality standard of coloring, and believe me, you'll be thrilled with the way this series looks.

Our current *Classic Star Wars* series is scheduled to run 20 issues. Look for a special double-length wrap-up early next summer, followed shortly thereafter by the start of a new series of classic reprints of the Russ Manning *Star Wars* strips. Which brings me to the next order of business . . .

We're running short of ideas for a series title for this upcoming Russ Manning series of reprints, and were hoping we could get some suggestions from you readers. The only stipulation for the title is that it must contain the words "*Star Wars*." *Classic Star Wars II* has already been ruled ineligible due to terminal unoriginality. Send as many suggestions as you like to us at Dark Horse, care of "Stellar Scribes." We'll see if we can't offer something in the way of a prize if your suggestion is used as the actual title.



Next month it's the Rebels and their new allies, the Mon Calamari, up against not only the usual devious Imperial forces, but some menacing giant sea worms as well.

— Bob Cooper

STAR WARS

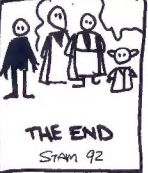
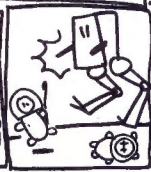
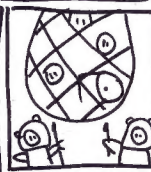
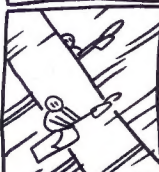
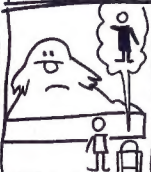
S H O W C A S E

a long time
ago in a
galaxy far,
far away...

CHAPTER VI

RETURN ^{OF THE}
JEDI

IN ONE PAGE



THE END
STAM 92



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*